



# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br>WOP0246B   |  | <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)  |  |
| International application No.<br>PCT/GB 03/03667  | International filing date (day/month/year)<br>21.08.2003 | Priority date (day/month/year)<br>14.09.2002  |  |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC<br>A47L9/00, A47L9/00   |  |   |  |
| Applicant<br>DYSON LTD et al.   |  |   |  |
| <p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>   |  |   |  |
| <p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</li> <li>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</li> <li>III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li> <li>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</li> <li>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</li> <li>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</li> <li>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</li> <li>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</li> </ul> |  |   |  |
| Date of submission of the demand<br><br>24.03.2004  |  | Date of completion of this report<br><br>08.06.2004   |  |
| Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:<br> European Patent Office<br>D-80298 Munich<br>Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d<br>Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465   |  | Authorized Officer<br><br>Papadimitriou, S<br><br>Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2760<br> |  |

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/03667

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-21 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-19 as originally filed

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/16-16/16 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/03667

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 20

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 20

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

|                               |             |      |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Novelty (N)                   | Yes: Claims | 1-19 |
|                               | No: Claims  |      |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Yes: Claims | 1-19 |
|                               | No: Claims  |      |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-19 |
|                               | No: Claims  |      |

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**Re Item I**

**Basis of the report**

1. Claim 20

No opinion was formed for claim 20 as no search report has been established for this claim.

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Independent claim 1

**Best prior art:** DE-U-29816382: cylinder type vacuum cleaner hose (70) disposed in a sinuous manner **in the interior** of the main housing (12) of the appliance (10).

**Distinguishing features:** in the cleaning appliance the hose (150) is disposed in a sinuous manner along a hose storage path around the periphery of the main body (100).

**Technical effects:** allows storage of hoses of greater length than the periphery of the appliance.

**Objective technical problem:** realisation of a cleaning appliance with a hose storage path.

**Inventive step:** US-A-4910828 also teaches stowing a vacuum hose in a sinuous manner but only along one side (side wall 30) of the periphery of the appliance (figs. 1-3), resulting in sharp bends of the hose with consequent premature hose failure.

**Industrial applicability:** The claimed appliance is industrially applicable in the field of household cleaning equipment.

**Conclusion:** Consequently, the subject-matter of independent claim 1 complies with the provisions of Article 33, paragraphs (2)(3)(4) PCT.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/GB 03/03667

2. Dependent claims 2-19

These dependent claims define various embodiments of the appliance specified in independent claim 1 and also comply with the provisions of Article 33 paragraphs (2)(3)(4) PCT.